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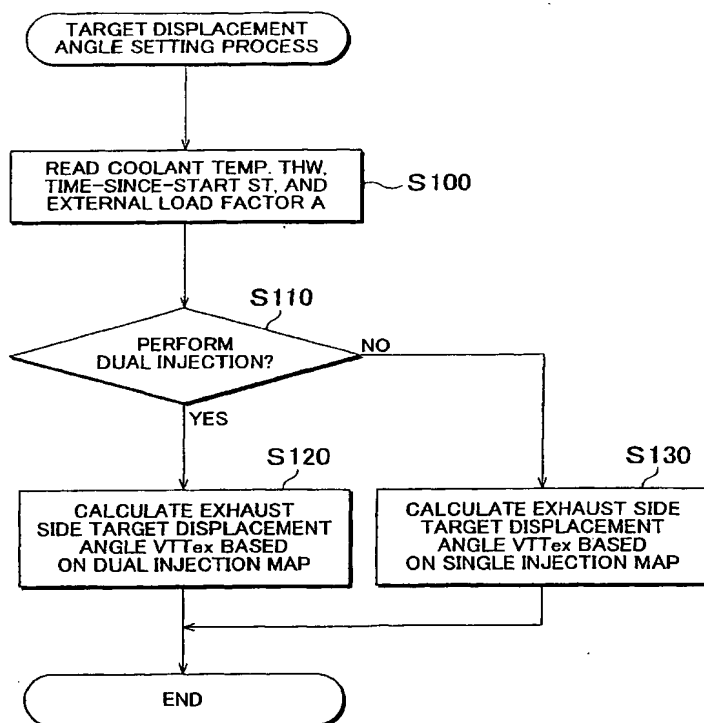
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VALVE CHARACTERISTIC CONTROL APPARATUS FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE



(57) Abstract: A valve characteristic control apparatus is provided in an internal combustion engine including a variable valve mechanism that can change at the least, among valve characteristics of an exhaust valve, a closing timing of the exhaust valve, and in which a number of injections of fuel is changed during one engine cycle. The valve characteristic control apparatus sets the closing timing of the exhaust valve to a retard side during an engine warming up operation. When setting to the retard side is performed, if two injections are performed, an exhaust side target displacement angle  $V_{T\text{Tex}}$  of the exhaust valve is calculated based on a dual injection use map. On the other hand, if one injection is performed, the exhaust side target displacement angle  $V_{T\text{Tex}}$  of the exhaust valve is calculated based on a single injection use map.

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